2. Fertilizers

387 Since the consumption of chemical fertilizers in Rumania is one of the lowest among the European countries, their production is comparatively small.

Synthetic nitrogen compounds are manufactured by the S.A. Nitrogen at Dicio San Martin, where the company has a small Fauser synthetic ammonia plant and a calcium cyanamide works. No recent reliable data exists regarding output, but before the war the Fauser plant is stated to have treated 200 metric tons of nitrogen annually, and the production of cyanamide amounted to about 500 metric tons. The quantity of superphosphate manufactured averaged about 8,000 tons before the war. Owing to the cutting-off of supplies of rock phosphate, production of superphosphate is now probably nil. There was no domestic production of potash salts, and pre-war imports were very small.

3. Wood-Distillation Products

314 385 This industry is almost entirely controlled by Margina Resita Fabrilarile de lemn unite S.A.R., Timisoara. Prior to the outbreak of the war about 170,000 tons of beech wood were worked per year. The following is a list of some of the products obtained, showing the average annual tonnage produced —

Wood charcoal	..	..	31,000
Methanol	..	..	2,000
Calcium acetate	..	..	1,400
Acetic acid	..	..	50
Formaldehyde	..	..	130
Acetone and derivatives	..	..	1,100

4. Soap and Glycerine

388 389 Rumania is an important producer of sunflower, rape and pumpkin seeds, and has, therefore, an ample supply of oil for her soap industry. The production of soap amounts to 33,000 tons and is in the hands of several factories, the only one of which is of striking importance being Stella S.A. of Bucarest. Glycerine production, which is a by-product of the soap industry, amounted to 330 tons, most of which was utilised by the explosives industry. Since the war the quality of the soap has markedly deteriorated. Though the present ration of 250 grams per head per month is a fairly generous one, it is not fully met and distribution is very bad. The production of glycerine is estimated to have fallen to about 200 tons, while imports amounted to 160 tons in 1941 compared with an average of about 240 tons in 1936-1938.

5. Paints and Varnish

386 The paint and varnish industry, in which some 60 small firms are engaged, is sufficiently well developed to meet—under normal conditions—the greater part of Rumanian requirements in this particular sphere. The industry is, however, still dependent to some extent on imports of oil paints.

6. Pharmaceuticals

278 Production of pharmaceuticals is on a very small scale, being sufficient to meet only about one-third of requirements, the remainder being covered by imports, mainly from Germany.

7. Explosives

389 The explosives industry is quite inadequate to cover wartime requirements, and these have to be

●389 cast by the Axis. The chief products made in the country are mining explosives and nitro-cellulose powder.

B. THE RUBBER INDUSTRY

383 Taking Axis Europe as a whole, the Rumanian rubber industry is of little importance. There is manufacturing capacity for motor tyres located at Floresti and at a much smaller plant at Brasov. The total number of workers employed in normal years was about 4–5,000, a large number of these being engaged on footwear manufacture, which was the chief product of the industry.

1. Raw Materials

Rumanian requirements of raw rubber had been increasing steadily in pre-war years until in 1938 they amounted to over 2,000 tons all of which were imported from British Malaya and the Netherlands Indies. It is probable that several firms produced reclaimed rubber for use in their own factories. Some of the scrap for this purpose would be of domestic origin. Import figures in [439] metric tons were :—

	1936	1937	1938
Crude rubber	1,278	1,835	2,066
Reclaim	181	214	33
Waste and scrap	305	581	500

Rumania had a small production of soft carbon black of the type suitable for miscellaneous uses, but there was no production of the hard carbon black necessary for tyre manufacture. This and other requirements of rubber chemicals would normally be obtained from the U.S.A., the U.K. and Germany. Supplies of sulphur were imported from Italy and Germany.

2. Principal Factories

The Rumania rubber industry comprises a large number of concerns producing footwear and general rubber goods, in addition to two factories concerned mainly with tyre manufacture. The larger tyre plant is owned by Banloc A.G., a company founded in 1937 with a capital of 200 million lei and supplied with technical assistance by Goodrich, U.S.A. The plant, located at Floresti, was only completed in 1939. Its estimated raw rubber requirements were 1,500 tons per annum, and it has the capacity to produce 6,000 motor and truck tyres monthly, sufficient to cover 75 per cent. of normal Rumanian requirements. This capacity included some plant for making aircraft tyres. The other plant which produces tyres is on a much smaller scale, and is owned by Fabrica de Cauciuc at Brasov, with a normal capacity of 10–20 truck tyres daily.

According to the latest information, both these tyre plants were still in production at the beginning of 1943, when Banloc were reported to be producing between 100 and 200 motor tyres daily with technical assistance from Continental, Hanover, while the Brasov plant was producing 12 to 15 lorry tyres daily with technical assistance from Semperit, Vienna.

3. Imports

383 439 The chief item of imports in pre-war years was motor tyres, amounting to between 800 and 900 tons per annum. Since at that time Rumania possessed virtually no capacity for producing any of her own requirements, this figure approximately represents normal domestic needs. Footwear requirements, on the other hand, were normally almost covered by the large and expanding domestic output, so that imports were unimportant.